

INTERNATIONAL Sunday School Lesson

By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of the Sunday School Course of the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.

LESSON FOR JANUARY 27

JESUS FORGIVING SIN.

LESSON TEXT—Mark 2:1-12.
GOLDEN TEXT—The Son of Man hath authority on earth to forgive sin.—Mark 2:10.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FOR TEACHERS—Psa. 51; Luke 15:11-32; 22:68; Matt. 12:10; 23:17.
PRIMARY MEMORY VERSE—Forgive us our sins.—Luke 11:4.
INTERMEDIATE TOPIC—Jesus healing soul and body.
SUNDAY AND ADULT TOPIC—Jesus meeting man's deepest need.

This is one of the most dramatic, spectacular incidents recorded in the Bible. It is a good illustration for Sunday school teachers on how to tell a story by imagining what one would naturally do. We ought to have our scholars see with their imagination, the story of this lesson as though they were eye-witnesses of the whole scene. The time was about May or June A. D. 28, the second year of Jesus' ministry, a few weeks following the last lesson, during which time he had been preaching and healing in the surrounding country.

I. Introduction. Jesus could testify in a home as well as before the multitude. Indeed it was after having testified in the home (v. 1) that the crowds gathered about the doorway, for it was not known that he was there, until some days after he had been in the house. Luke tells us that the crowds which came, came not only from Galilee but Judea and even Jerusalem. Jesus did his work so well in the home that wherever he was, the world wore a path to his doorway. Notice verse two; when the crowd gathered about, he spoke unto them "the word." In this we see a parable. Many a successful man, when he becomes popular, forgets to preach the pure Gospel, the Word of Life.

II. An Impelling Need (vv. 3-4). This man who had paralysis, i. e., disabled on one side, was not only deprived of his sensation but his power of motion. As to the cause of his difficulty, his previous character of life, there is no word of suggestion. We see abundant evidence today, however, to know that many such cases are the results of our own debaucheries and one would gather from the course which Jesus pursued with this man that perhaps his case was likewise the result of his early sin. The teacher might well read in this connection Luke 16:11-12. Of course, this man may not have been a prodigal son. Nevertheless, he had as much suffering as though he had been and as far as he himself was concerned, he was helpless, a picture of all sinners. He, however, had friends, very enterprising ones. And so putting him upon the double quilt or coverlet, which could be rolled together in a bundle of moderate size, they carried him into the presence of the master.

III. Jesus Forgives and Defends His Rights (vv. 5-12). The crowd was so great about the house that "they could not come nigh unto him for the press." They were not, however, discouraged; but leaving the crowd, they went up the usual outside stairs, bearing the sick man with them unto the roof which "they uncovered"—literally they dug through the flat roof made of branches and twigs and covered with earth, and which could be as easily repaired. Travelers in eastern countries have often seen a similar act performed even in this day. They then let down the bed or mattress by the four corners. The roof was so low that no cords were needed and those below received the man from the hands of the four upon the roof and placed him in front of Jesus. Jesus commends "their deed" as indicated in all three of the Gospel records. Not alone physical obstacles had to be overcome, but the attitude of the scribes (v. 7). Was it right, was it honest to break through the roof of a man's house? Would they make it good? Was the owner glad to have had it done? Jesus did not hesitate or speculate over such questions, but goes at once to the issue and said to the man sick of the palsy, "Son, be of good cheer, thy sins be (are) forgiven thee." See Matthew's and Mark's account. "Son," is a word of endearment; the word "be" is not as strong in the old form as the word "are" forgiven. Jesus went at once to the unhealed wound in the soul, the sense of unforgiveness sin. Forgiveness is not of the judge who sentences "not guilty," but a father who welcomes and restores one to sonship. It is restoration to life. The Bible story of the prodigal son and that scene pictured in the seventh chapter of Luke, the feast, where Jesus dealt with a woman of the city, who ministers unto him, are good illustrations of the master's attitude of mind on this occasion.

The scribes charged blasphemy which is to slander God and speak treason against him. Blasphemy is practically uttered treason. He perceived their inmost thoughts and answered them (v. 9). To forgive sin, or to command the man to rise were both divine acts; he could do either; he proved one by the use of the other. His command to the young man to take up his bed was a test to be proved by the man's faith. That the cure was complete we know, for he immediately arose. To "arise" was a physical impossibility; to "take up his bed" permitted no relapse.

With the mountains having more snow on them at present than for many years and the heavy snow in general on the ground, a heavy rain and a sudden change in the weather, Wheeling would likely experience a big flood. For this reason action is being taken at once to install a flood bureau in that city to get first hand information regarding floods.

The office will be in the Wheeling Commercial Association rooms and all reports when a flood is in sight will be received there. The Wheeling bureau will work in conjunction with Forecaster Pennywitt at Pittsburgh. W. H. Schuler, well known riverman and for several years the Wheeling wharfmaster, will have charge of the Wheeling office.

BITS OF STATE NEWS

The West Union Record of this week contains the following decidedly unusual gas well story: "The gas well on the Frank Nutter farm a mile above Oxford, which came more than a year ago, about an eight million cubic feet well, and which has been constantly producing a large volume of gas, ceased flowing during this cold weather. The Pittsburgh and West Virginia Gas company sent their men to investigate who went over the line thinking that it was frozen up, and could find nothing wrong with the line. Their superintendent, Mr. McNary, went there and discovered nothing wrong. He had the well uncapped and not a bit of gas was coming from the well. Tools were run in the well and a few strokes of the bit given to the bottom of the well without any result. The well was again capped in and in a day or two the gas came on again, making a million cubic feet more gas than it had when it was first drilled in. The caper of this well was unheard of before in the gas business."

West Virginia went over the top in the Young Men's Christian Association's regular war work campaign in November to the extent of \$335,000. It was announced by George L. Goodwin, interstate director, who was in charge of the drive in this state, according to the Martinsburg Journal. Mr. Goodwin has just completed his report of the campaign in West Virginia, returns being slow coming in, but the tentative report made to Governor Cornwell shows that West Virginia citizens subscribed more than the state's quota of \$200,000.

We are getting back to first principles in many ways. The following from the Parkersburg Sentinel indicates one of the ways: "Henry Morlang, the local butcher, brought a large drove of cattle over from Ohio Wednesday afternoon. They were white faced Herefords and in the finest condition. He brought them here from a point thirty-five miles down in Ohio, driving them through, rather than take chances on shipping by rail on account of the congestion on the roads. The drove consisted of about one hundred cattle."

The birthday anniversary of General Lee and Jackson, the universal leaders of the armies of Northern Virginia and of the Shenandoah were commemorated under the auspices of Lawson Botts Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, at the Court House in Charles Town last Monday night. Col. R. P. Chew presided, and after prayer and a few fitting remarks by Rev. J. S. Albright, in appropriate language introduced the speaker of the evening, Hon. R. Gray Williams, of Winchester. Mr. Williams' address, says the Spirit of Jefferson, was an eloquent and able one, and he portrayed the masterly achievements and sterling christian character and qualities of these brilliant leaders of the Confederacy in a vivid manner. The choir rendered various southern songs, which were much enjoyed by those present.

According to the Mountsview Echo last Monday was dog killing day at Dillies Bottom. Large dogs, small dogs, middle sized dogs, all sorts and breeds of dogs from all around to common hounds met a like fate and were buried in one large grave. Deputy Sheriff Carl Daniee seized about forty six dogs that were not wearing tags, in this section of Belmont county, says the Echo. He secured a sled and some boys and made the rounds. It was a ticklish job taking the dogs, as small boys would cry, "Don't take my dog." All were taken, however, and placed in an improvised pound on the Day farm. A certain time was given for redeeming the dogs. Many of the well-to-do people redeemed theirs, and some in rags, with shoes that would scarcely cover their feet, paid the \$2.00 to redeem theirs. A large number of the latter people were foreigners.

The Wheeling Red Cross chapter has been advised that the oldest Red Cross worker in the state of West Virginia has been discovered. The oldest worker is Mrs. N. E. Forbes, aged 71 years, and her home is in New Martinsville. During the winter Mrs. Forbes has been an untiring worker for the boys in the trenches and has knitted and sent in to the New Martinsville chapter ten pairs of socks and other work. Despite her advanced years Mrs. Forbes works several hours a day and says she expects to make many more articles for Uncle Sam's soldiers.

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FRATERNAL NOTICES

Knight of Pythias—Mountain City Lodge No. 48. Meets in Third floor, Fleming Bldg., Thursday evenings, 7:30. P. H. Hall, Master of Finance; R. C. Miller, K. of R. and S. Marion No. 21. Meets at Market and Merchant streets, First ward, every Tuesday evening. Monumental Lodge No. 201. Meets in Pythian Lodge room, Barrackville, every Tuesday evening.

Woman's Benefit Association of the Maccabees—Marion Review No. 30, meets every Tuesday evening, Maccabees hall, Main street. Mrs. Olive E. Harden, record keeper.

Brotherhood Railway Trainmen—O. C. Willis, president; E. D. Holden, secretary. Meets second Sunday of each month at 1:30 p. m. and last Sunday of each month at 7:30 p. m., in the Red Men's hall.

Loyal Order of Moose—Fairmont Lodge No. 9. Meets every Wednesday evening at 7:30 o'clock in the Moose Home, 418 Jefferson street. R. D. Harden, Sec'y.

Modern Woodmen of America—White Camp No. 5472, Modern Woodmen of America. Meets every Friday evening at their hall in the Skinner Bldg. C. W. Walker, Clerk. Modern Woodmen of America Monongahela Camp, No. 14627. Meets every Monday, 7:30 p. m. Hall on Merchant St. Mont Devault; Ralph Courtney, Sec'y.

The Protected Home Circle—Fairmont Circle No. 616. Meets every Monday evening at 7:30 in the Maccabees' hall, Main street.

A. O. U. W.—Meets on the second and fourth Monday in each month. J. H. Kinkead, Rec.; W. A. Crowl, Rep. G. Lodge. Degree of Honor, auxiliary to the A. O. U. W., meets first and fourth Monday of each month. Mrs. A. P. Jones, Lady Chief of Honor.

B. P. O. E.—Fairmont Lodge No. 294, at 7:30 o'clock. Charles D. Barry, Sec., 228 High street.

I. O. O. F.—Marion Lodge No. 11. Meets every Tuesday in Odd Fellows Hall. W. S. Pitzer, Sec. Palatine Lodge No. 34. Meets every Wednesday evening at 7:30 o'clock in Odd Fellows Hall, corner Main and Monroe streets. H. W. Stoneking, Sec'y. Mountsview City Encoment No. 5. Meets in Odd Fellows Hall on the first and third Fridays of each month. C. H. Riggle, Scribe. Patriarchs Militant. Meets in Odd Fellows Hall Thursday evenings. J. C. Glasscock, Captain; W. S. Pitzer, Clerk.

Daughters of Rebekah—West Virginia Lodge No. 64. Meets every Monday night at 7:30 o'clock at Odd Fellows Hall.

Ladies' Order Golden Links—Meets at Cunningham Hall, Jefferson street. Fairmont, every Tuesday evening at 7:45. Worthy Ruler, Beatrice Cole.

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Fairmont, financial secretary, Mrs. Martha Short, Barker.

Seasonic—Fairmont Lodge No. 9 Meets in Masonic Temple first and third Mondays in each month. Francis E. Nichols, Sec. Orient Chapter No. 2, R. A. M. Meets in Masonic Temple second Monday of each month. Francis E. Nichols, Sec. Crusade Commandery No. 6, K. T. Meets in Masonic Temple every fourth Monday. Francis E. Nichols, Sec. Fairmont Chapter No. 34, O. E. S. Meets in Masonic Temple first and third Thursday. Helen Fleming, Sec.

Ladies of Modern Maccabees—Dent Hive No. 753, Ladies of the Modern Maccabees. Meets the first and third Fridays of each month in K. of P. Hall. I. O. of R. M.—Setting Sun Tribe No. 16. Meets each Thursday evening at Red Men's Hall, First ward. H. Ernest Hawkins, K. of R., 188 State street, First ward. W. Oneta Council No. 6, Degree of Pocahontas. Meets every Friday evening at Red Men's Hall, First ward.

Library Association—The Board of Directors of the Fairmont Public Library Association meets in the library. Parlor the first Monday evening of each month at 7:30 o'clock. The officers are: President, Mrs. N. R. C. Morrow; vice president, Mrs. George DeBolt; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. J. Walter Barnes. Other members of the board are: Mrs. Jennie Engle, Mrs. Francis E. Nichols, Mrs. Charles Baird Mitchell and B. L. Butcher.

Commercial Travelers—Fairmont Council No. 497, United Commercial Travelers, meets first Saturday evening in each month in Maccabees Hall. L. E. Bennett, Sec'y.

Order of Owls—Fairmont Lodge No. 1622. Meets every Thursday in old K. of P. Hall, McKinney Bldg. W. H. Randolph, Sec'y.

A. O. H.—Meets every second Sunday at Knights of Columbus Hall. M. J. O'Neal, Rec. Sec. Boutlou Division. Ladies Auxiliary. Meets first Friday of each month in K. of C. Hall.

Knights of Columbus—Fairmont Council No. 1622. Meets every Monday in old Mason Hall, corner Main and Madison streets. James T. Murphy, recording secretary. 14 McKinley St.

Woodmen of the World—Meets in K. of P. Hall, Fleming Bldg., H. T. Jones, Clerk, 203 Albert Court.

Marion Co. Medical Society—Meets last Friday of each month in the Fleming Bldg. President, Dr. L. C. Holland; vice president, Dr. L. D. Howard; secretary, Dr. H. R. Johnson; treasurer, Dr. W. H. Sands; board of censors, Drs. L. N. Yost, J. E. Offner, Wm. F. Boyers; delegates to West Virginia State Medical Association, Drs. H. H. Carr, A. L. Peters; alternate, Drs. E. P. Smith, C. W. Wadell.

American Insurance Union—Meets each second and fourth Tuesday of the month in the K. of P. Hall on Main street.

V. M. C. A.—Fairmont Avenue and First Street. J. M. Hartley, pres.

sent, B. L. Butcher, Secretary; J. O. Watson, treasurer.

K. O. T. M.—Showalter Tent No. 7. Meets every Friday evening in McKinney Bldg.

Pythian Sisters—Mountain City Temple No. 5. Meets every second and fourth Tuesday evening in K. of P. Hall in the Fleming Building. Millie K. Evans, M. of R. and C.

German Beneficial Union—Meets first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p. m. All dues and assessments must be paid on or before the first day of each month. Ernest Schwaner, pres.; August Friederich, Vice Pres.; T. J. Fast, Sec'y.

Knights of the Golden Eagle—Municipal Hall. Meets every second and fourth Tuesday of each month. J. L. Shackelford, Master of Records.

Marion Auxiliary to the brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen meets every second and fourth Thursdays of each month in the Maccabees' hall at 2 p. m. President, Minnie Hovatter; secretary, Mrs. Ward Hager; treasurer, Mrs. Jennie N. Hupp.

W. C. T. U.—Regular meeting third Tuesday at 7:30 p. m. Mothers' Club meeting first Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. President, Mrs. W. D. Evans; treasurer, Mrs. A. L. Menear; secretary, Mrs. J. H. Beckman.

Ladies of the Golden Eagle—Mountain City Temple, No. 29, meets every Thursday evening in Modern Woodman Hall, Skinner building. Florence Sims, recording secretary.

Royal Neighbors—Seaton Camp, meets every Tuesday evening in the Skinner building. Miss Daisy Adams, secretary.

Order Railway Conductors—Meets every first and third Sunday in Red Men's Hall at 2:30 p. m. F. H. Brumage, secretary.

Knights of Malta—Mountain State Commandery No. 446, A. & I. O. Knights of Malta, meets every Thursday evening at 7:30 in third floor Cunningham building. Eminent Sir C. K. Eoyer; Sir Knight Commander, Sir T. E. Minear, Worthington, W. Va., secretary.

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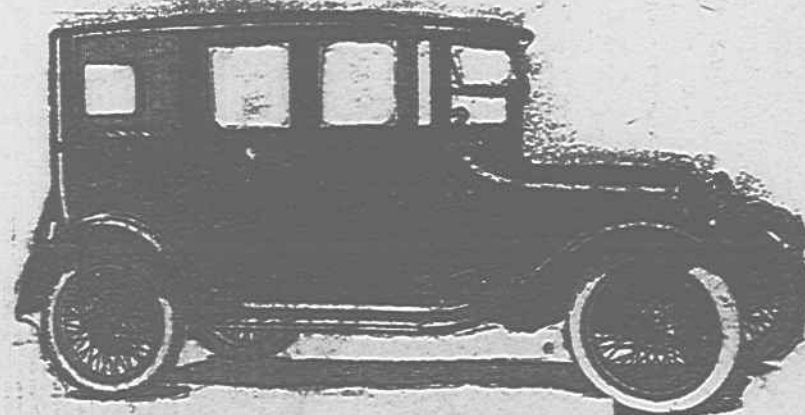
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